

Docket No. 740756-2100

Serial No. 09/633,869

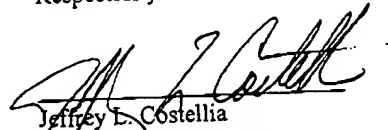
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**REMARKS**

As noted above, the claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 20, 22, 25-29, 38-43, 45, 47, 50-54, 56, 58 and 61-65 have been canceled to simplify the issues for the interference proceedings, pursuant to the agreement reached with Examiner Simkovic during the November 13<sup>th</sup> telephone conference, with the clear understanding that each of the above canceled claims can be reinstated by amendment should the Applicants prevail in interference.

Since the instant application has now been placed in a simplified condition for interference and at least copied claims 31-36 are allowed, a prompt declaration of interference by the Examiner is respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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